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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,878	06/07/2005	Joannes Gregorius Bremer	NL 021260	8410
24737	7590	05/17/2007	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			SHAH, SAMIR M	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/537,878	BREMER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Samir M. Shah	2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicants' arguments filed 2/27/2007, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3, 4-7, 9-11 and 13 as being anticipated by Depeursinge et al. (US Patent 6,201,476 B1 henceforth "Depeursinge") and claims 1 and 3-13 as being anticipated by Choi (US Patent 5,317,304 henceforth "Choi"), and with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-13 as being unpatentable over Verplaetse et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2003/014660 A1 henceforth "Verplaetse"), have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(a) As to Applicants' argument, Depeursinge "teaches a concurrent monitoring of motion sensor signals...teaches three motion sensors 2a-2c having outputs that are concurrently being monitored and processed by a signal processor 6", the Examiner disagrees.

As mentioned in the previous Office Action, it would be impossible to simultaneously/concurrently monitor the plurality of sensor signals received by the processor (including units 8, 9). In other words, successive signals received from the measurement unit would inevitably have to be processed in turn, by the processor (including units 8, 9).

Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-11 as being anticipated by Depeursinge is maintained.

(b) As to Applicants' argument, "Choi teaches a concurrent monitoring of sensor signals... a trigger capturing circuit 23 concurrently receiving motion signals from a tamper switch 21 and a motion sensor 22 in a continuous manner to thereby trigger an activation of a microprocessor 24 upon either signal indicating motion", the Examiner disagrees.

Choi clearly discloses, "[t]o conserve energy, the microprocessor 24 remains in a dormant "stand-by" mode most of the time...only placed in an "active" mode by the signal capturing means 23 when motion or anti-tampering signals have been generated" (column 5, lines 3-7). This implies that motion or anti-tampering signals are not continuously generated and therefore, the microprocessor (24) inevitably monitors the sensor signals (from sensors 21, 22) in turn. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-12 as being anticipated by Choi is maintained.

(c) As to Applicants' argument, "Verplaetse teaches a concurrent monitoring of motion sensor signals... an accelerometer having two motion sensor outputs 5 and 6 coupled via op-amps buffers 280 and 282 to A/D ports of microcontroller 38", the Examiner disagrees.

In paragraph 0036, Verplaetse discloses a power management circuit (56) that is designed to periodically power down accelerometer (36) to save power and the processor (38) analyzes whether any motion is occurring and, in the absence of motion, powers down accelerometer (36) via power management circuit (56). Therefore, since the accelerometer (36) does not produce sensor signals continuously in time, the

processor (38) is inevitably operable to monitor the sensor signals in turn (for instance, when a successive signal is produced after the accelerometer (36) has been powered down for a while). Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-12 as being unpatentable over Verplaetse is maintained.

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6 and 7, filed 2/27/2007, with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-11 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-11 as being anticipated by Randell et al. ("Context Awareness by Analysing Accelerometer Data", Cliff Randell and Henk Muller henceforth "Randell") has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Depeursinge.

(a) As to claims 1, 3 and 9, Depeursinge discloses a method and a "device for monitoring the activity of a person"/monitoring device (1), comprising:

a measurement unit including (unit 7 and) a plurality of motion sensors/accelerometers (2a-2c) operable to produce respective sensor signals indicative of motion experienced thereby (figures 1, 3; column 2, lines 33-67; column 3, lines 1-29); and

a processor (including units 8, 9) operable to receive the sensor signals from the measurement unit (unit 7 and accelerometers (2a-2c)) and to process the sensor signals in accordance with a predetermined method (figures 1, 3; column 3, lines 30-67; column 4, lines 1-7),

characterized in that the activity monitor/monitoring device (1) (including processor (units 8, 9)) is operable to monitor and process the sensor signals discontinuously in time (column 4, lines 7-11) and the processor (including units 8, 9) is operable to monitor the sensor signals in turn (column 3, lines 65-67; column 4, lines 7-11).

(b) As to claim 5, Depeursinge discloses the processor (including units 8, 9) being operable to enter a monitoring mode of operation in which the processor (8, 9) monitors the sensor signals and to enter a standby mode of operation in which no monitoring takes place (column 4, lines 7-11).

(c) As to claims 6 and 10, it is inherent for Depeursinge's processor (8, 9) to enter the monitoring mode and the standby mode alternately because it is impossible for the

processor (8, 9) to enter both the monitoring mode and the standby mode simultaneously or at the same time.

(d) As to claims 7 and 11, Depeursinge teaches "in order to save power consumption, it may be contemplated to put units 8 and 9 in a standby mode of operation, if no dynamic changes in the acceleration signals are detected". Therefore, since the respective time periods for the monitoring and standby modes depend on dynamic changes in the acceleration signals, it is inherent that the respective time periods are variable.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Choi.

(a) As to claims 1, 3 and 9, Choi discloses a method and a device for monitoring the activity of a person, comprising:

a measurement unit including a plurality of motion sensors (21, 22)/motion detecting means (22) operable to produce respective sensor signals indicative of motion experienced thereby (figure 5; column 4, lines 39-47); and

a processor/microprocessor (24) operable to receive the sensor signals from the measurement unit and to process the sensor signals in accordance with a predetermined method (figure 5; column 4, lines 52-68; column 5, lines 1-2),

characterized in that the activity monitor is operable to monitor and process the sensor signals discontinuously in time (column 5, lines 3-15; column 6, lines 28-61) and the processor/microprocessor (24) being operable to monitor the sensor signals discontinuously in time and in turn (column 5, lines 3-15; column 6, lines 28-61).

(b) As to claim 2, Choi discloses the measurement unit being operable to output the sensor signals discontinuously in time because sensor signals (from sensors 21, 22) are only produced when either motion and/or tampering is detected and thus since the sensor signals are produced discontinuously, the measurement unit is inevitably operable to output the sensor signals discontinuously in time (column 4, lines 48-55).

(c) As to claim 5, Choi discloses the processor/microprocessor (24) being operable to enter a monitoring/active mode of operation in which the processor/microprocessor (24) monitors the sensor signals and to enter a standby mode of operation in which no monitoring takes place (column 5, lines 3-15; column 6, lines 28-61).

(d) As to claims 6 and 10, Choi discloses the processor/microprocessor (24) being operable to enter the monitoring/active mode and the standby mode alternately, for respective time periods (column 5, lines 3-15; column 6, lines 28-61).

(e) As to claims 7 and 11, Choi discloses the respective periods being variable and being enforced by the main control process (MCP) (column 6, lines 28-33).

(f) As to claims 8 and 12, Choi discloses the time period for the standby mode being 95% and the time period for the monitoring/active mode being 5% and thus the respective time periods are fixed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verplaetse.

(a) As to claims 1 and 9, Verplaetse discloses a method and a device for monitoring activity, comprising:

a measurement unit including a "multi-axis MEMS accelerometer" (36) operable to produce sensor signals indicative of motion experienced thereby (figure 3; paragraph 0032, lines 1-6); and

a processor (38) operable to receive the sensor signals from the measurement unit and to process the sensor signals in accordance with a predetermined method (figure 3; paragraph 0032, lines 6-19),

characterized in that the activity monitor is operable to monitor and process the sensor signals discontinuously in time (paragraph 0036) and the processor (38) being operable to monitor the sensor signals in turn (paragraphs 0036, 0045).

As to claims 1 and 9, Verplaetse does not expressly discloses a plurality of motion sensors.

However, Verplaetse uses a multi-axis accelerometer (36) which is functional to sense the acceleration in at least two distinct axes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of motion sensors/accelerometers for sensing the acceleration in at least two distinct axes, as required by Verplaetse, instead of a single multi-axis accelerometer to save money.

(b) As to claim 2, Verplaetse discloses that the measurement unit (including multi-axis accelerometer (36)) is operable to output the sensor signals discontinuously in time (figure 3; paragraph 0036).

(c) As to claim 3, Verplaetse discloses a power management circuit (56) designed to periodically power down accelerometer (36) and processor (38) to save power. Therefore, when the accelerometer (36) and processor (38) are powered down, the processor (38) will not be monitoring any sensor signals. Therefore, Verplaetse's processor (38) is operable to monitor the sensor signals discontinuously in time (figure 3; paragraph 0036).

(d) As to claim 5, Verplaetse discloses that the processor (38) is operable to enter a monitoring mode of operation/full theft detection mode in which the processor (38) monitors the sensor signals and to enter a standby/powered-down mode of operation in which no monitoring takes place (paragraphs 0036, 0044).

(e) As to claims 6 and 10, Verplaetse discloses the processor (38) being operable to enter the monitoring/full theft detection mode and the standby/powered-down mode alternately, for respective time-periods (paragraph 0036).

(f) As to claims 7 and 11, Verplaetse discloses "processor 38 will stay powered and will keep accelerator 36 powered and processor 38 will screen for theft-type motion until no motion is sensed". Therefore, since the powering down of the accelerometer (36) and the processor (38) is dependent upon the sensing of motion, it is inherent that the respective time periods for the monitoring/full theft detection and standby/powered-down modes are variable (paragraph 0036).

(g) As to claims 8 and 12, Verplaetse discloses the respective time periods for the monitoring/full theft detection and standby/powered-down modes being fixed to 500 ms, being implemented by a power management circuit (56) (paragraphs 0036, 0044, 0046).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon, cited in the attached 892 form, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samir M. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-2671. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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